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PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT

POSSIBLE ANTIBALLISTIC MISSILE LAUNCH AREA SEMIPALATINSK, USSR

DECLASS REVIEW by NIMA/DOD



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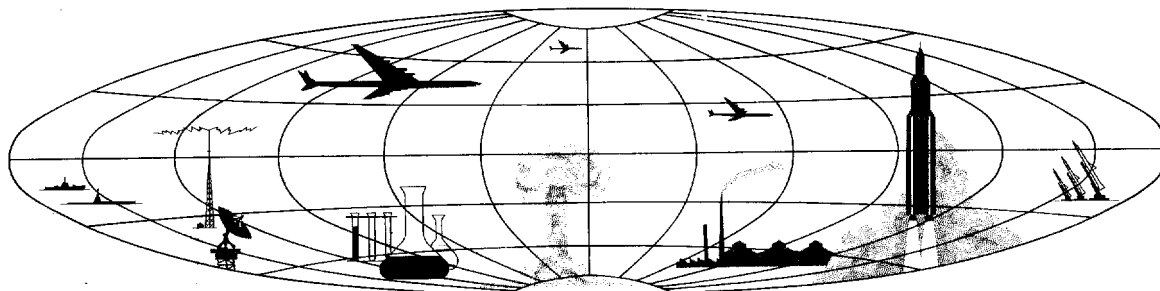


CIA

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NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER



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POSSIBLE ANTIBALLISTIC MISSILE LAUNCH AREA
SEMIPALATINSK, USSR

PREFACE

This report, prepared under NPIC Project JN-179/62 in answer to CIA requirements DDI/OSI/R-154/62 and DDI/OSI/R-243/62, presents information on the Possible Antiballistic Missile (ABM) Launch Area, Semipalatinsk, USSR, derived from a study of [REDACTED] photography

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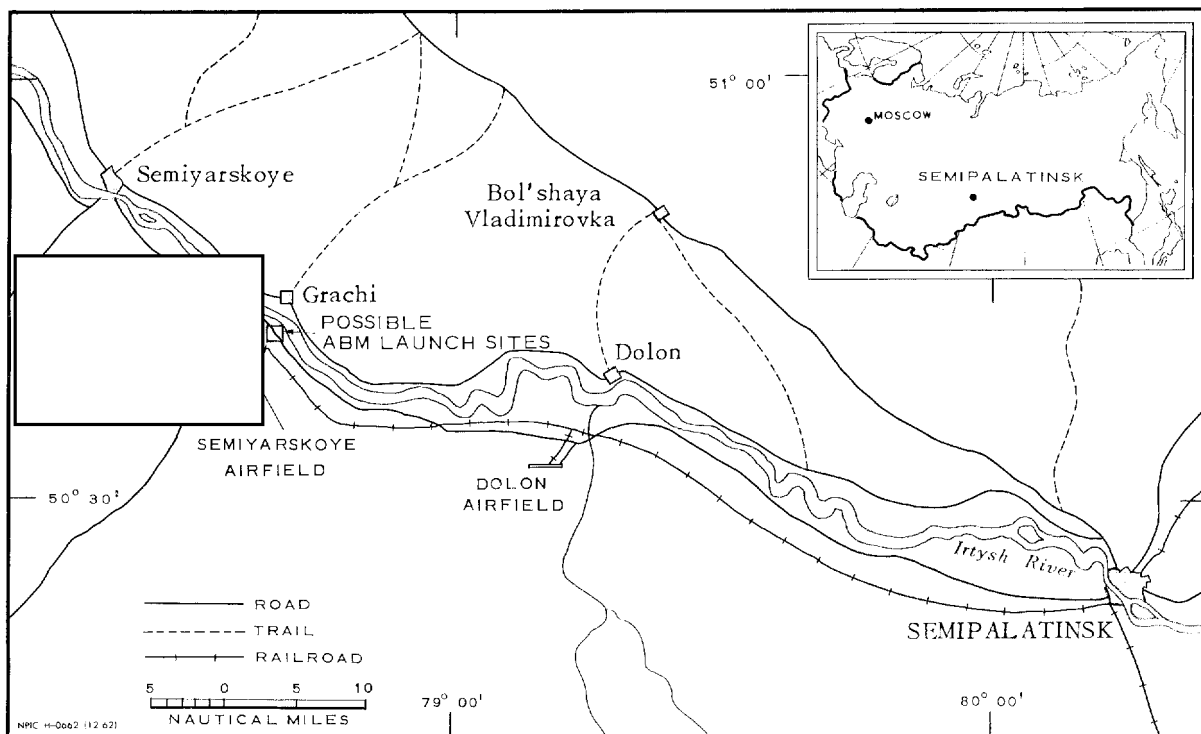


FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF POSSIBLE ABM LAUNCH AREA, SEMIPALATINSK.

On the north side of the southeast site is a linear excavation of varying depth measuring approximately 190 by 40 feet (item 4). This excavation, with its accompanying construction activity, obliterates the sixth radial. The presence of a spoilpile near the excavation may indicate backfilling. No ramps can be associated with the excavation.

Northeast of the sites and across the service road is a square ground pattern measuring approximately 320 feet on each side (item 5). Two sides have extensions, one to the north and one to the east, which terminate in small clearings. This formation suggests the facility may have a guidance or instrumentation function, although no specific equipment and no domes are visible. Track activity from the service road terminates at a heavily scarred area within the pattern.

A building measuring approximately 100 by 50 feet is located on the northeast side of the possible launch sites and adjacent to the service road (item 6). This building is connected by road with the center of each launch site. Several other structures are discernible.

One nm northwest of the possible launch area is a high-frequency receiving station. First observed on [redacted]

[redacted] this receiving station is connected by road to the possible launch area and may be related to this facility. (For a detailed discussion of the receiving station, see CIA/PIR/1003/62.) 1/

About 1,850 feet north of the possible launch sites is a heavily scarred pear-shaped area measuring approximately 450 by 300 feet (item 7). This area does not appear to be related to the operation of the possible launch sites.

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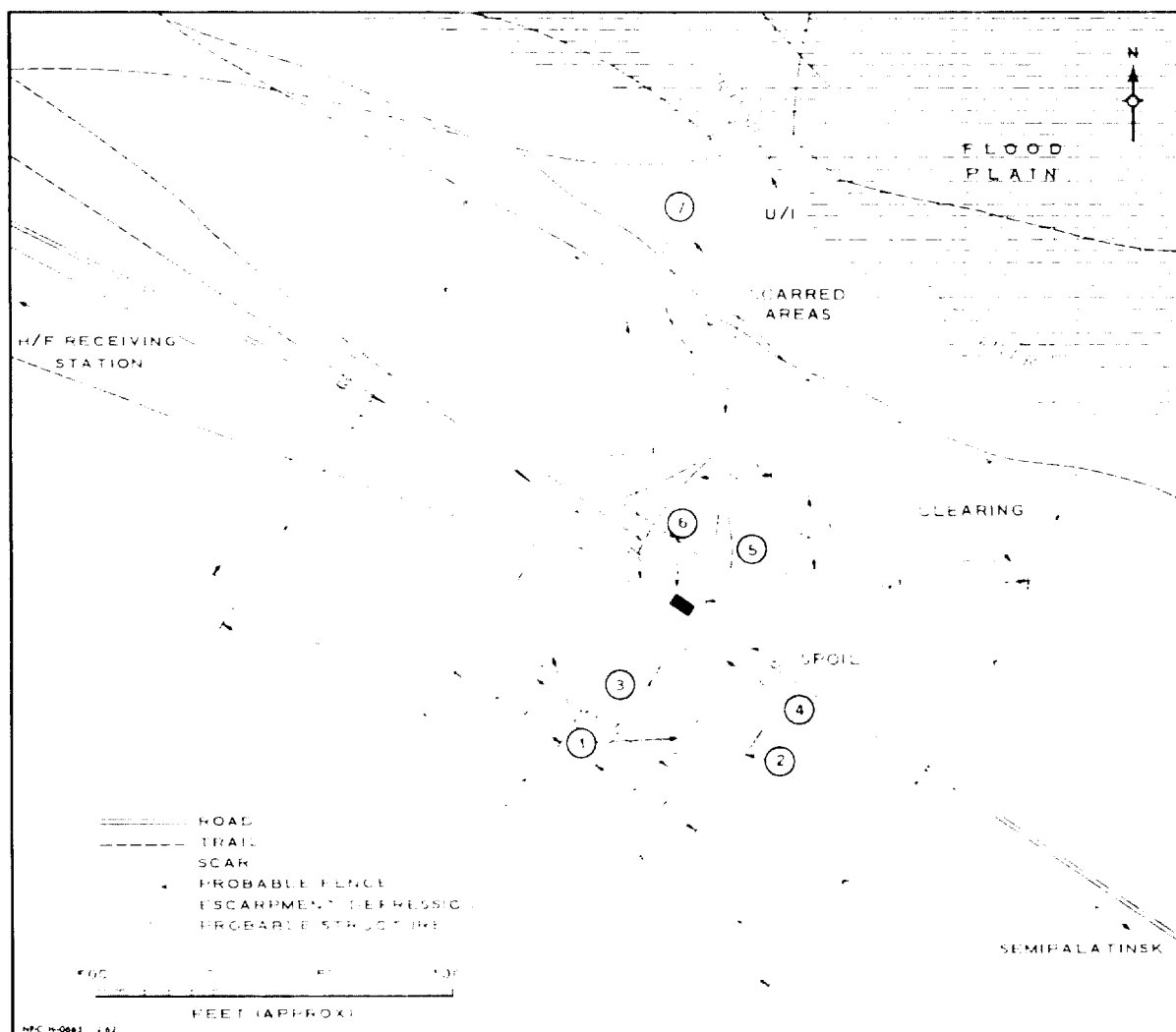


FIGURE 2. LAYOUT OF POSSIBLE ABM LAUNCH AREA.

SIMILARITIES TO SARY SHAGAN

A close comparison between the facilities at the Semipalatinsk area and Site 3 and 4 at Sary Shagan Launch Complex A--which have been identified as probable ABM sites--is not possible because the two facilities were photographed during different phases of construction. 2-5. However, the following physical similarities have been noted between Semipalatinsk and Sary Shagan Launch Sites 3 and 4:

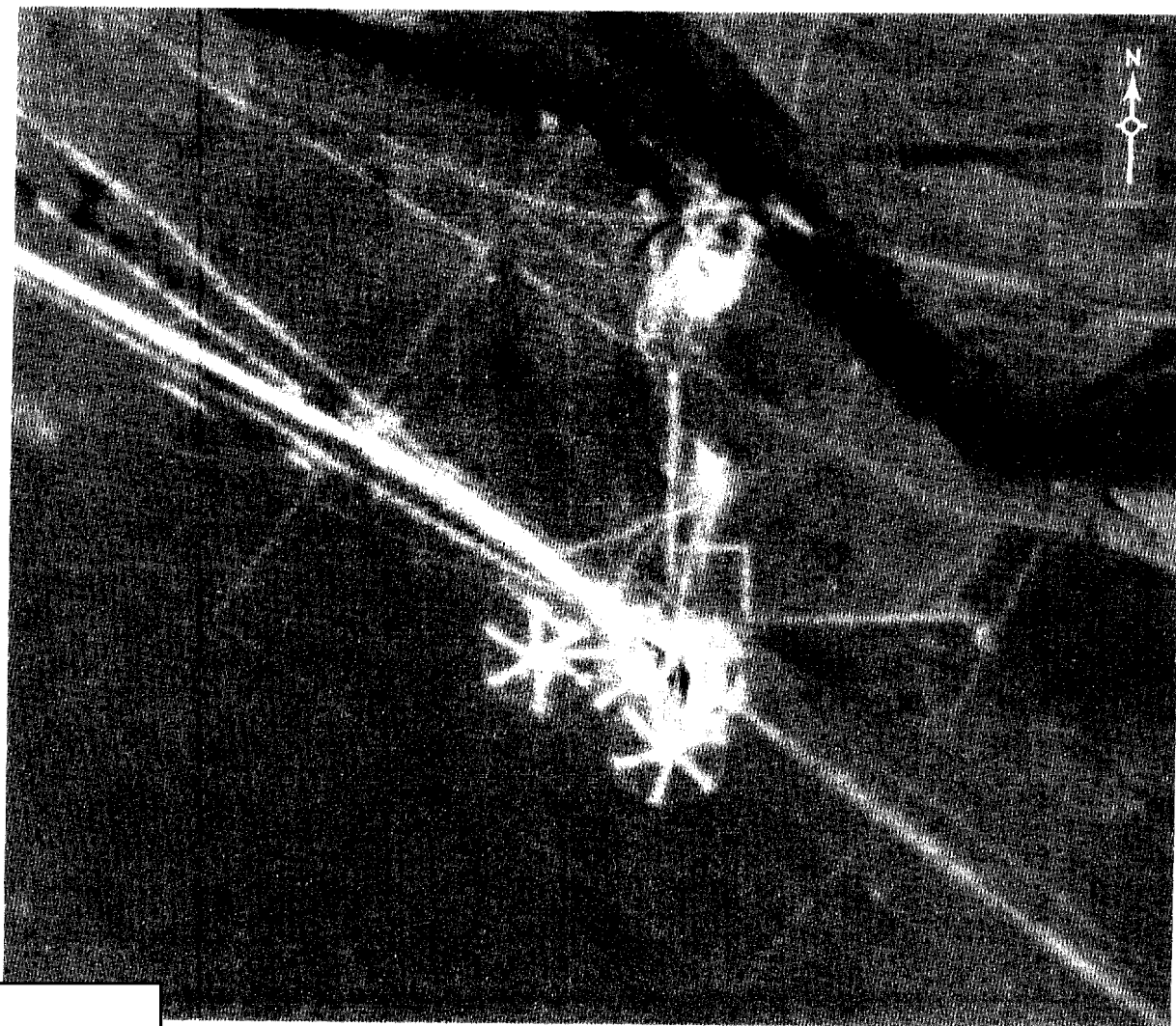
1. The facilities at Semipalatinsk, like those at Sary Shagan, have been laid out as a pair of sites.
2. The sites at both areas assume a generally circular configuration.
3. The possible launch sites at Semipalatinsk, like those at Sary Shagan, are composed of a number of radials terminating in cleared areas.

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[REDACTED] FIGURE 3. POSSIBLE ABM LAUNCH AREA, SEMIPALATINSK [REDACTED]

4. Both facilities have an associated prominent squared ground pattern.

Points 3 and 4 have been seen exclusively

at sites 3 and 4, Sary Shagan Launch Complex A, and at the two sites under construction at Semipalatinsk.

DIFFERENCES FROM SARY SHAGAN

Along with the similarities, specific differences have been noted between the two facilities:

1. The sites at Semipalatinsk are approximately 30 percent smaller than those at Sary Shagan.

2. A circular ground scar connects the extremities of the radials at Semipalatinsk; none is present at Sary Shagan.

3. A linear ground scar is present between the sites at Semipalatinsk; none is apparent at Sary Shagan.

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4. The square ground pattern located near the sites at Semipalatinsk has two long extensions; the similar feature at Sary Shagan has only one extension. Furthermore, the entire pattern at Semipalatinsk is oriented differently with respect to the launch sites from that at Sary Shagan.

5. There is a large linear excavation present at one site at Semipalatinsk and no sign of a similar feature at Sary Shagan.

6. The Semipalatinsk area appears to have no facility connected with it which is comparable

to Electronics Site B at Sary Shagan.

7. The large building connected by road to the center of each launch site at Semipalatinsk has no counterpart at Sary Shagan.

8. Each site at Sary Shagan has a circular guidance revetment associated with it. No similar revetments have been noted at Semipalatinsk.

9. The launch sites at Semipalatinsk have a symmetrical appearance while those at Sary Shagan appear to be irregular.

REFERENCES

MAPS OR CHARTS

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